
XIV. *Description of such Species of Chironia as grow wild at the Cape of Good Hope. By Sir Charles Peter Thunberg, Knight of the Order of Wasa, Professor of Botany at Upsal, F.M.L.S.*

Read November 1, 1803.

GENTIANA, *Swertia*, *Exacum*, *Chlora* et *Chironia*, genera sunt inter plantas adeo affinia et in non paucis similia, ut admodum sit difficile dictu, sive unicum genus constituere debeant, sive in plura abire diversa. Hac de re non pauci dubii hæserunt botanici. *Exacum* minimo staminum numero, scilicet tantum 4, instruitur; *Chlora* maximo, nimirum 8 usque 12. *Chironia*, *Swertia* et *Gentiana* constanter quinarium staminum numerum servant, sed variant corolla 4- et 5-fida, antheris lævibus atque spiralibus, sic ut plures species jam ad hoc, jam ad aliud genus relatæ fuerint, et *Gentiana*, cujus species semper numerosissimæ, non raro in plura genera dilacerata evaserit.

Chironia, quod maxime singulare et notatu dignum, *baccata* fructum producit baccatum, a ceterarum capsulis valde dissimilem.

Gentiana et *Swertia* præterea gaudent stigmatibus duobus sine stylo, dum reliquæ omnes pistillo unico instruuntur. *Swertia* instruitur etiam nectario, et *Gentianæ* species plurimæ inconstanti figura corollæ, mirum in modum, ludunt.

Inter hæc genera, *Chironiæ* plurimæ species occurrunt spontaneæ, uti etiam *Exaci*, in Promontorio Bonæ Spei dicto. Cumque *Chironiæ* species in Africa australi, loco earum natali, plures examinare



Chironia tetragyna

Chironia nudicaulis

aminare mihi contigerit vivas. Descriptiones harum, tam quæ ante notæ fuerunt, quam quæ novæ mihi obvenerunt, illustris Societatis ulteriori scrutinio subjectas volui.

Upsal.

d. 29 Jul. 1803.

CHIRONIA TETRAGONA.

CH. foliis ovatis glabris, caule suffruticoso, calycibus ovatis carinatis.

Tab. XII. Fig. 2.

Chironia tetragona. Linn. *Syst. Vegetab.* xiv. p. 229. per Gmelin. p. 392. *Suppl. Pl.* p. 151. Thunb. *Prodrom. Plant. Capens.* p. 35.

Crescit in Capite Bonæ Spei prope Puspasrivier.

Floret Octobri et sequentibus mensibus.

Caulis basi frutescens, totus glaber, ramosus.

Rami e basi sæpe plures, ramulosi, tetragoni, erecti, pedales.

Ramuli alterni, tetragoni, flexuoso-erecti, subfastigiati.

Folia opposita, sessilia, ovata, obtusiuscula, integra, trinervia, frequentia, erecto-imbricata, internodiis longiora, unguicularia.

Flores in ramulis terminales, solitarii, purpurei.

Calycis laciniae ovatae, carinatae, viscosae, corolla triplo breviores.

Differt a *Chironia angulari*, cui valde similis :

1. Corolla purpurea ; et imprimis
2. Calycis laciniis carinatis ovatis.

CHIRONIA NUDICAULIS.

CH. foliis ovatis glabris, caule herbaceo, calycibus subulatis.

Tab. XII. Fig. 3.

Chironia nudicaulis. Linn. *Syst. Vegetab.* xiv. p. 229. per Gmelin. p. 391. *Suppl. Pl.* p. 151. Thunb. *Prodrom. Pl. Capens.* p. 35.

Crescit in summitate Montis Tabularis.

Floret Januario, Februario.

Caulis herbaceus, totus glaber, mox a radice ramosus.

Rami subradicales, plures, elongati, subsimplices, raro superne divisi, laxi, flexuoso-erecti, subtetragoni, pedales.

Folia opposita, sessilia, ovata, obtusiuscula, integra; inferne aggregata, pollicaria; superne remotissima; suprema lanceolata.

Flores in ramis terminales, solitarii, purpurei.

Calycis laciniae lanceolatae, elongato-subulatae, erectae, longitudine tubi corollae.

Differt a *Chironia trinervia*:

1. foliis obtusioribus.

2. ramis elongatis.

3. calycis apice subsetaceo.

CHIRONIA FRUTESCENS.

CH. foliis lanceolatis tomentosis, caule fruticoso.

Chironia frutescens. Linn. *Syst. Vegetab.* xiv. p. 229. per Gmelin. p. 392. *Spec. Plant.* p. 273. per Willden. p. 1070. Thunb. *Prodrom. Plant. Cap.* p. 35.

Crescit in oris maritimis Promontorii Bonae Spei Africes, in littore infra Leuwekopp, in montibus Hottentots Holland et alibi vulgaris.

Floret ab Augusto in Decembris usque mensem.

Radix perennis.

Caulis fruticosus, totus cinereo-tomentosus, erectus, subangulatus, ramosus, pedalis et ultra.

Rami lignosi, obsolete tetragoni, alterni, foliis deciduis annulati, ramulosi.

Ramuli superne aggregati, fastigiati.

Folia decussatim opposita, sessilia, lanceolata, obtusa cum acumine, integerrima, carnosissima, erecta, subtomentosa, pollicaria vel paulo longiora.

Flores

- Flores* in ramulis terminales, solitarii, magni.
Perianthium inflatum, apice connivens, subtomentosum, semiquinquefidum: *laciniæ* oblongæ, concavæ, acutæ.
Corolla monopetala, tubulosa.
Tubus cylindricus, ampliatus, albus, rugosus, longitudine calycis, unguicularis.
Limbus campanulato-patens, quinquepartitus: *laciniæ* ovatæ, obtusæ cum acumine, membranaceæ, purpureæ, pollicares.
Filamenta quinque, tubo infra faucem inserta, linearia, erecta, alba, limbo triplo breviora.
Antheræ oblongæ, spirales, flavæ.
Germen superum, acutum, glabrum.
Stylus filiformis, albus, utrinque sulco longitudinali notatus, longitudine staminum.
Stigma simplex, obtusum, didymum, incurvatum, villosum, album.
Capsula oblonga, acuta, compressa, didyma, glabra, bivalvis.
Receptaculum in fundo calycis, sertiforme, basin capsulæ cingens, crenulatum, pallidum.

CHIRONIA JASMINOIDES.

- CH. foliis lanceolatis glabris, caule herbaceo cernuo.
Chironia jasminoides. Linn. *Syst. Vegetab.* xiv. p. 229. per Gmelin. p. 391. *Spec. Plant.* p. 272. per Willd. p. 1066. Thunb. *Prod. Plant. Capens.* p. 35.
Crescit in regionibus Swellendam et alibi.
Floret Octobri.
Caulis herbaceus, totus glaber, tetragonus, parum ramosus, curvato-erectus, apice cernuus, pedalis et ultra.
Rami pauci, alterni, divaricato-patentes, simplices, cauli similes.
Folia opposita, sessilia, lanceolata, apice marginibusque reflexis, utrinque glabra, integra, patentia, internodiis duplo breviora, vix pollicaria.



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